

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 16, 2010

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the National Academy of Sciences Reception on April 25, 2010

On April 25, 2010, the National Academy of Sciences, a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Gaylord National Hotel, in National Harbor, MD., from 4:00p.m.-7:00p.m. This event will allow interaction between the leading U. S. and international scientists and policymakers in conjunction with the 147th annual meeting of the Academy.

The reception will be widely attended by Federal officials from Government agencies, local government officials, representatives of industry and private individuals, and academia. Approximately 1,100 people have been invited and are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is \$100.00 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the Agency because it will further Agency programs and operations. The event will provide NASA employees an opportunity to discuss the mission and other NASA programs with representatives of the communities participating in the reception. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsor or a majority of its members may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Kathleen T. Spear

Adam F. Greenstone
Adam F. Greenstone